

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An external preparation for skin, which comprises a multi-branched polysaccharide compound with multi-branched polysaccharide skeleton consisting of saccharides selected from 1,6-anhydro- β -D-glucopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- β -D-mannopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- β -D-galactopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- β -D-allopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- β -D-altropyranose, 1,4-anhydro- β -D-ribopyranose, 1,4-anhydro- α -D-xylopyranose, 1,4-anhydro- α -L-arabinopyranose, 1,4-anhydro- α -D-lyxopyranose, 1,3-anhydro- β -D-glucopyranose, 1,3-anhydro- β -D-mannopyranose, 1,2-anhydro- α -D-glucopyranose, 1,2-anhydro- β -D-mannopyranose, and 5,6-anhydro- α -D-glucopyranose as constituent units, wherein at least one of hydroxyl (OH) groups in the multi-branched polysaccharide skeleton is substituted by OR wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups or a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups which has hetero atom.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the multi-branched polysaccharide compound comprises a polymer obtained by cation polymerization or anion polymerization.

5. (original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the branching degree of the multi-branched polysaccharide is 0.05 to 1.00.

6. (previously presented) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.

7. (previously presented) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 1.

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented) The external preparation for skin according to claim 4, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.

11. (previously presented) The external preparation for skin according to claim 5,
wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin
according claim 4.

15. (previously presented) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin
according claim 5.

16. (previously presented) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin
according claim 6.

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 10.

20. (previously presented) A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 11.

21. (new): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the cosmetic is in liquid form.